Division of Education and Human Services
Teacher Education Department

PREPARING
FOR THE
TEXES EXAMS
TExES Exam Approval Process
(Effective Spring 2013)

The new testing process is as follows and students must see the Certification Officer, Ms. Tricia McBride, for information on preparation materials and approval to take the TExES exams.

1. Students must take the appropriate content practice exam (EC-6 Generalist, Mathematics 4-8, Science 4-8, or Mathematics 8-12) preferably during enrollment in EDEE 3320. Students majoring in EC-6 Generalist / Bilingual also take the practice BTLPT exam on site at UNT Dallas.

2. All students are required to sign up and complete a web-based test preparation program and obtain documentation that this program was completed. The preparation programs are 240Tutoring, Certify Teacher, and T-CERT. This packet contains information on access codes and web links to these testing sites. (UNT Dallas faculty will be able to monitor student usage and test preparation.) Students can also contact the Ms. Tricia McBride, Certification Officer (Dallas 1, Room 201Q, 972-338-1346, patricia.mcbride@unt.edu) for information on the web-based preparation programs.

3. Before students can receive approval to take the actual TExES exams, Ms. McBride, Certification Officer, must receive the documentation and verification of test preparation. Texas Administrative Code 228.40 requires that programs determine the readiness of each candidate to take the appropriate certification exams.

4. All students are required to attempt the appropriate content exam prior to approval for student teaching. Students majoring in EC-6 Generalist/Bilingual must also attempt the BTLPT.
A LIST OF RESOURCES AND HELPFUL HINTS

TExES Exam Preparation

The best preparation for a TExES exam is a well-rounded education with in-depth learning experiences in your teaching field. Because the range of knowledge and skills required of teachers is so broad, it is unlikely that you can learn all that is necessary to pass the test in a short time. However, here are some steps you may wish to follow before you take the examination.

The Educational Testing Services (ETS) has registration materials and preparation manuals for the TExES exams. ETS has preparation materials available depending on your exam needs and the specific test you plan to take. Visit the ETS website at www.texes.ets.org/prepMaterials for a list of available resources.

Study Materials

Because the TExES assessments cover the wide range of knowledge required for teaching, there are many sources that may help you prepare for the assessments and for your teaching experience. UNT Dallas does not guarantee that the use of materials in this list will result in better performance on a test, and there may be other materials not listed here that will be helpful in preparing to take tests.

- **TExES Study Guides:** Each test is based on a framework, or list of objectives, which is included in the study guide. Each question on the test assesses your knowledge of one of the objectives. These study guides also contain sample questions that will give you an idea about the types of questions that may be asked on the test. Study guides are available at no cost through the ETS website at www.texes.ets.org.

- **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):** Chapter 75 of the Texas Administrative Code, the State Board of Education Rules for Curriculum, (more commonly known as the TEKS) outlines Texas’ curriculum guidelines. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills were an important influence in determining the content of the TExES tests because they define the content that Texas teachers are required to teach. You may view and download the TEKS at www.tea.state.tx.us.

- **State-Adopted Textbooks:** The most recently adopted textbooks and teacher guides in the courses you will be eligible to teach may also be helpful in your test preparation. If you are already employed by a Texas public school, you may be able to borrow textbooks from your district. Additionally, some Education Service Centers and some university libraries have the textbooks available for reference purposes, if not to checkout.

- **Journals and Other Materials from Professional Organizations** Most of the content areas included have a corresponding professional organization. For example, if you are planning to be an algebra teacher and are going to take the Mathematics TExES test, you may wish to contact the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics to find out about their publications. Though they may not have materials specific to the TExES, they generally publish journals, policy statements, and/or current research that may aid you in
your test preparation. In addition to the printed materials, local chapters often have meetings and workshops on pertinent topics.

- **College Texts, Notes, and Assignments:** When reviewing materials from college coursework in preparation for a TExES exam, you may wish to focus your study on courses that included content that will be assessed on the test. For example, if you are studying for the Special Education test and feel you need additional work in the subarea of Characteristics and Needs of Individuals with Disabilities, you may wish to study your notes and text from the course that examined the range of disabilities, rather than materials from a course in one specific disability.

- **On Line Test Preparation Options:** Included in this packet are the flyers for three online preparation programs

  - **T-CERT – TExES Certification Exam Review for Teachers** ([https://pact.tarleton.edu/TCERT/](https://pact.tarleton.edu/TCERT/)) Online modules, including videos and study materials for the PPR and some content. This program is free but does require preregistration to obtain a user ID and password.
    - Reviews and practice exams are offered for the following TExES exams: 4-8 Mathematics, 4-8 Science, 8-12 Math, EC-12 PPR, EC-12 Special Education, EC-6 Generalist, and ESL Supplemental.

  - **240Tutoring:** ([http://www.240tutoring.com](http://www.240tutoring.com)) Web-based test preparation with study guides, concept-driven curriculum, interactive practice questions and tools to assess content mastery. UNT Dallas students are provided a discounted price of $25.00 when they enter the discount code. Enrollment is for 60 days per registration.
    - Reviews and practice exams are offered for the following TExES exams: 8-12 Math, EC-12 PPR, EC-12 Special Education, EC-6 Generalist, ESL Supplemental, and Bilingual Education Supplemental.

  - **CertifyTeacher:** ([http://www.certifyteacher.com](http://www.certifyteacher.com)) Web-based program providing flashcards, study mode, exam mode, and review answers components designed to provide information and strategies as well as evaluate candidates' proficiency with skills and knowledge tested on the exam. UNT Dallas students are provided a discounted price of $25.00 when they enter the discount code. Enrollment is ongoing until the candidate passes the appropriate exam.
    - Reviews and practice exams are offered for the following TExES exams: Mathematics 4-8, Science 4-8, 8-12 Math, EC-12 PPR, EC-12 Special Education, EC-6 Generalist, ESL Supplemental, and Bilingual Education Supplemental.
• TExES Exam Books:
  o *The Best Test Preparation for the TExES– Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas*
    By Research & Education Association - This series of test preparation books includes full-length exams from the TExES content and professional development exams, a review of key educational theories and concepts, and a review of legal matters that are relevant to teachers.
  o *Pass the TExES (PPR)*
    By Mark Mentze - The book covers all levels, and includes easy-to-study outlines, worksheets, study techniques and helps, and a CD.
  o *Barron’s How to Prepare for the ExCET (Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas: Professional Development Tests)*
    By Sandra Luna McCune, Mary Ella Lowe & Donnya E. Stephens
    (XAMonline.com has a complete series of study guides appropriate to the required content exam)

The Texas Education Agency and the University of North Texas at Dallas do not endorse any commercially developed study guides. If you choose to purchase one, be sure to keep your focus on the objectives listed in the TExES Study Guide. UNT Dallas does not guarantee that the use of materials in this list will result in better performance on a test, and there may be other materials you may discover on your own that will be helpful in preparing to take tests.

Beginning in fall 2011, the state English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) will be embedded in the K-12 PPR test, which all of our education majors are required to take for certification purposes. These links will help you better understand the purpose and framework of the ELPS, which have replaced the ESL TEKS of recent years. If you are not familiar with the ELPS, please take some time to educate yourself so that you can see how they are already incorporated into your course work. Our goal is to ensure that students are proficient in their knowledge of and ability to use both the TEKS and the ELPS, as this will be crucial for success on the PPR and in the classroom.

[http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074a.html#74.4](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074a.html#74.4) – Link to the actual ELPS

Navigating the ELPS Video Presentation (wmv) - 1 hour webinar explaining the ELPS
http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/doclibraryroot/publicpages/ELPS/Tab/ELPS_082809(2).pdf – Handout to accompany the webinar listed above. It is very helpful in conjunction with the webinar.

Navigating the ELPS Slideshow (pdf) - PowerPoint presentation about the ELPS.

One more valuable tool, a vertical (across grade level) alignment of TEKS & ELPS
http://www.englishspanishteks.net

You can succeed, as you plan with the end in mind. We want you to become the best teacher of young Texans, and this certification exam process is one way to celebrate how highly qualified you are becoming.